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12/31/05  
Received  
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December 30, 2005

Mr. Andy Hughes  
Division of Program Development  
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200  
Alaska Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7898

Re: Draft 2006-2008 STIP

Dear Mr. Hughes

The compilation of biased and incoherent decisions which makes up the current version of the STIP is a disgrace to the transportation planning process and demonstrates the extent to which transportation in Alaska has become a political football.

With little or no explanation nearly two-thirds of Alaska's long-awaited improvements to our existing transportation system have been stripped and replaced with mega-projects which enjoy marginal support and which will drain the state's transportation coffers long into the future.

Across the state local officials are protesting the slashing of funds for much needed repairs and upgrades to local facilities and infrastructure, including the Alaska Marine Highway. In Skagway alone, two projects of extreme importance to public safety, the Dyea Road improvements and our "Gateway" pedestrian project have disappeared from the STIP. By what rationale have these reprioritizations been made?

Why has the Juneau Road supplanted our local projects when Haines and Skagway and more than half of Juneau have voted against it? When have the people in Lynn Canal had an opportunity to comment on the Gravina Bridge and Knik Arm Crossing and the clear impacts they will have on the availability of future funding for local projects? Who is doing the math on the big picture?

I ask that the funding which has been removed from the STIP for ferries and local "fix-it" projects be reinstated and that the Juneau Road, Knik and Gravina bridges and other mega-projects be removed from the STIP until the Alaskan public has an opportunity to review and comment on the long-term impacts these huge projects will have on transportation funding in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

*Janice C. Wrentmore*  
Janice C. Wrentmore

Cc: Senator Albert Kookesh  
Representative Bill Thomas